Case 2478

Chelifer Geoffroy, 1762 (Arachnida, Pseudoscorpionida): proposed conservation

M. S. Harvey

(*Environmental Records Section, Museum of Victoria, 71 Victoria Crescent, Abbotsford, 3067, Victoria, Australia*)

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name of the pseudoscorpion genus *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762. Although a common name it is at present unavailable because the work in which it was published did not adhere to the principle of binominal nomenclature.

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1. Geoffroy's 1762 *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux environs de Paris* did not adhere to the principles of binominal nomenclature, and for this reason it was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoology in 1954 (Opinion 228). However, the Commission invited applications for the conservation of any name published in the *Histoire* of which the rejection would lead to nomenclatural instability or confusion. One such name is *Chelifer,* the type genus of the pseudoscorpion family CHELIFERIDAE.

2. Geoffroy (1762, p. 617) proposed the generic name *Chelifer* for two species: '1. CHELIFER *fuscus, abdomine lineis transversis*' and '2. CHELIFER *totus ruber, antennis extremo bisetis*'. Both of these names clearly refer to Linnaean species since these are cited under each name. The first refers to *Acarus cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 616) which was designated the type species of *Chelifer* by Latreille (1810, p. 424). The second refers to *Acarus longicornis* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 618), which is the type species of *Bdella* Latreille, 1795 (Acari, BDELLIDAE) by subsequent monotypy of Latreille (1796, p. 180). Latreille's (1795, p. 18) original description of *Bdella* did not include a valid species name but simply 'La pince *rouge* de Geoffroi', which is Geoffroy's vernacular name for *Acarus longicornis* Linnaeus, 1758.

3. The genus *Chelifer* is well established in the literature and even though it was once a repository for many pseudoscorpion species currently includes only *Chelifer cancroides* (Linnaeus, 1758). It is a much studied and well known synanthropic species apparently native to Europe but now distributed in most parts of the world. Rejection of this name would cause undue confusion and instability of nomenclature. The next available name is *Obisium* Illiger, 1798 (type species *Acarus cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758 by subsequent designation (Chamberlin 1930, p. 12)).

4. Schiödte (1849, p. 23) proposed the family name OBISIIDAE (as 'Familia *Obisia'*, an incorrect original spelling) and Stecker (1874, p. 231) proposed CHELIFERIDAE (as a subfamily), based on *Obisium* Illiger, 1798, and *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762, respectively. CHELIFERIDAE has been universally accepted by arachnologists for many years and its retention is preferred over OBISIIDAE which has not been mentioned in the literature for over 50 years.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to conserve the generic name *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation of Latreille (1810), *Scorpio cancroides* Fabricius, 1775 (a junior objective synonym of *Acarus cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758);

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Acarus cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758 (specific name for the type species of *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762);

(4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name CHELIFERIDAE Stecker, 1874;

(5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Obisium* Illiger, 1798 (a junior objective synonym of *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762);

(6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoölogy the name OBISIIDAE (correction of OBISIA) Schiödte, 1849.

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